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Sixty-fourth year

Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Letter dated 6 July 2009 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instruction from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the press release issued by the Azerbaijani Community of the Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated 5 June 2009 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 13 and 18, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Tofig **Musayev**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

09-39657 (E) 090709

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Annex to the letter dated 6 July 2009 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

PRESS RELEASE

The Congress of the Azerbaijani Community of the Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan was held on 5 June 2009.

The Congress was attended by 350 elected representatives of the Community currently unifying more than 65,000 people. On the eve of the Congress 69 meetings of the members of the Community were held on the ground, enabling therefore the election of 350 representatives for the participation at the Congress.

The Congress elected the Steering Board of the Community, consisting of 22 members. The Chief Executive of Shusha province of the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, Mr. Bayram Safarov was elected as the Head of the Steering Board of the Azerbaijani Community of the Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The Congress stressed that the return of the Azerbaijani Community to the Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan is of the utmost importance for the settlement of the conflict and it is the key element for the establishment of peace and security in the region.

It was stated that for the safe and dignified return of the Azerbaijani population to the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan they should be provided with the appropriate security conditions as well as the rights and immunities equal to those of the Armenian community of the region and the opinion of the Azerbaijani Community should be duly taken into account in consideration of all political issues of the region.

The Congress affirmed that the process of definition of legal status of the region shall take place in normal peaceful conditions with direct, full and equal participation of the entire population of the region, namely, the Armenian and Azerbaijani communities, and in their constructive interaction with the Government of Azerbaijan exclusively in the framework of a lawful and democratic process.

For the purpose to reach a stage where the parties concerned can start considerations of the self-rule status for the Nagorno-Karabakh region within Azerbaijan, the consequences of military occupation and ethnic cleansing must be eliminated. The Azerbaijani Community of the Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan should return to the lands of their origin as it was before the outbreak of the conflict.

The Congress reiterated that the Azerbaijani Community of the Nagorno-Karabakh region is ready to live with Armenian neighbours within the Republic of Azerbaijan and there is no alternative to that.

The rehabilitation and economic development of the region is essential for the process of normalization of life and restoration of peaceful coexistence and cooperation between the two communities.

The conflict can only be solved on the basis of respect for the territorial integrity and inviolability of the internationally recognized borders of Azerbaijan, and peaceful coexistence of Armenian and Azerbaijani communities in the Nagorno-Karabakh region, fully and equally enjoying the benefits of democracy and prosperity.

Baku, 5 June 2009